

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An image synthesizing apparatus for synthesizing two images, comprising:

coefficient setting means for setting a blending coefficient α ($0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$) at a specified value proportional to ~~when~~ a value of a specific picture element component included in picture element components A of a first image ~~is a predetermined value when said value of the specific picture element indicates a normal image component,~~

wherein said specified value is set to zero when said value of the specified picture element does not indicate a normal image component; and

arithmetic means for performing an operation on said picture element components A, picture element components B of a second image, and said blending coefficient α as follows:

$$A * \alpha + B * (1 - \alpha)$$

and performing said operation on all the picture element components A and the picture element components B of a picture element that has the specific picture element component representing the predetermined value by using said blending coefficient α set by said coefficient setting means;

~~wherein said first image is a still image and said second image is a moving image.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An image synthesizing apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein a value that is outside a specified range of values that can be assumed by said specific picture element component ~~which and does not affect display of said first image is recorded associated with said specific picture element component as said predetermined value for setting said blending coefficient α at said specified value in said operation.~~

3. (Original) An image synthesizing apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein specific picture element component is a luminance component.

4. (Original) An image synthesizing apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said coefficient setting means sets said blending coefficient α at zero when said specific picture element component is zero, and sets said blending coefficient α at unity when said specific picture element component is other than zero.

5. (Original) An image synthesizing apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said coefficient setting means sets said blending coefficient α at zero when said specific picture element component is zero, and sets said blending coefficient α at a specified value that satisfies $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ when said specific picture element component is other than zero.

6. (Original) An image synthesizing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein data of said first image and data of said second image are data in an ITU-R601 format having a luminance component and a color difference component as said picture element components A and said picture element components B, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) An image synthesizing method for synthesizing two images, said method comprising the steps of:

setting a blending coefficient α to a specified value proportional to a value of a specific picture element component included in picture element components A of a first image when said value of the specific picture element indicates a normal image component,

wherein said specified value is set to zero when said value of the specified picture element does not indicate a normal image component; and

performing an operation on picture element components A of ~~a~~ the first image, picture element components B of a second image, and the ~~a~~ blending coefficient α ($0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$) as follows:

$$A * \alpha + B * (1 - \alpha)$$

~~and when a specific picture element component included in said picture element components A represents a predetermined value, said blending coefficient α is set at a specified value in said operation on all the picture element components A and the picture element~~

~~components B of a picture element that has the specific picture element component representing the predetermined value,~~

~~wherein said first image is a still image and said second image is a moving image.~~

8. (New) The image synthesizing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the specific picture element component is a color component or a color difference component when image data includes a color component or a color difference component.

9. (New) The image synthesizing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein a relationship between the specific picture element component and the blending coefficient is preset in an image generation means.

10. (New) The image synthesizing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein a relationship between the specific picture element component and the blending coefficient is selected by a user.